

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An electronic write protect apparatus for storage media comprising:

at least one record element for writing information to a given magnetic storage media;

a pre-existing electronic information signal detection element to detect a pre-existing electronic information signal stored on said given magnetic storage media; and

a record deactivation circuit to prevent recording on said given magnetic storage media when said pre-existing electronic information signal detection element detects said pre-existing electronic information signal stored on said given magnetic storage media, said deactivation occurring at or about a time of occurrence of said detection of said pre-existing information signal.

2. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one record element comprises at least two record elements.

3. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one record element is attached to a spinning element.

4. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said at least one record element is stationary.

5. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 3, wherein:

said pre-existing electronic signal detection element is attached to said spinning element.

6. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said given magnetic storage media is a video tape.

7. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said given magnetic storage media stores digital information.

8. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect apparatus for storage media according to claim 1, wherein:

said pre-existing electronic information signal detection element is a play element.

9. (Currently Amended) An electronic write protect method for a storage media comprising:

attempting to record information on a given video tape placed in a video cassette player;

detecting a pre-existing video signal from said given video tape; and

deactivating a record circuit in said video cassette player at or about a time of occurrence of said detection of said pre-existing signal ~~based on detection of said pre-existing video signal already recorded on said given video tape.~~

10. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said attempting to record information is performed by multiple record elements.

11. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said attempting to record information is performed by a spinning record element.

12. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said attempting to record information is performed by a stationary record element.

13. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 11, wherein:

said detecting a said pre-existing video signal is performed by a spinning play element.

14. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said video tape stores digital information in magnetic form.

15. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect method for storage media according to claim 9, wherein:

said detecting said pre-existing video signal is performed by a play element.

16. (Currently Amended) An electronic write protect means for storage media comprising:

means for attempting to record information on a given video tape placed in a video cassette player;

means for detecting a pre-existing video signal from said given video tape; and

means for deactivating a record circuit in said video cassette player at or about a time of occurrence of said detection of said pre-existing signal ~~based on detection of said pre-existing video signal already recorded on said given video tape.~~

17. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for attempting to record information is performed by multiple record elements.

18. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for attempting to record information is performed by a spinning record element.

19. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for attempting to record information is performed by a stationary record element.

20. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 18, wherein:

said means for detecting said pre-existing video signal is performed by a spinning play

element.

21. (Previously Presented) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said video tape stores digital information in magnetic form.

22. (Withdrawn) The electronic write protect means for storage media according to claim 16, wherein:

said means for detecting said pre-existing video signal is performed by a play element.